

the English language, hope and encouragement to become productive seniors in the community. He will truly be missed at the Hawaii Senior Companion Program, but I believe that he will remain an active member of the community. Mahalo nui loa for all of your hard work, Gerald! Aloha and Imua!

HONORING HULET HORNBECK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Hulet Hornbeck, a long-time friend and strong advocate for the East Bay Regional Park District in California, on the occasion of his 86th birthday and the dedication of the Hornbeck Trail at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline.

The East Bay Regional Park District is bestowing the honor of naming a segment of the California Hiking and Riding Trail at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline in recognition of Hulet's many and significant contributions to the East Bay Regional Park District as well as to the environmental and trails movement throughout the United States.

Hulet Hornbeck, a Contra Costa County resident, has been a leader in the grassroots citizen's movement, which resulted in the annexation of most of Contra Costa County to the East Bay Regional Park District in 1964. He served the East Bay Regional Park District as Chief of Land Acquisition from 1965 through 1985 leading land acquisition efforts during one of the Park District's greatest expansion period. During this time the Park District grew from 8 parks totaling 13,000 acres to 46 parks encompassing 62,000 acres at his retirement in 1985.

During his tenure with the Park District and continuing over the next 20 years, Hulet was a leading force in the initiation of the East Bay Regional Park District's regional trail system as well as being an active volunteer advocate for the acquisition and development of trails locally, nationally and internationally. He has been a life-long conservationist, outdoorsman, and environmentalist who has provided leadership for such organizations as the California Conservation Council, the American Hiking Society, the National Trails Council, the Martinez Land Trust, the Trails and Greenways Foundation, American Trails, Heritage Trails Fund, Amigos de Anza, the California Recreational Trails Committee, the East Bay Area Trails Council, the American Trails Association, Solano County Farmlands and Open Space Foundation, and the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Hulet Hornbeck for his vision and leadership in providing trails and regional parks throughout Contra Costa County and congratulate him on the occasion of his 86th birthday and the naming of the Hornbeck Trail at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MIKLÓS VÁSÁRHELYI, HUNGARIAN PATRIOT AND MAN OF PRINCIPLE

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the Congress of the United States to join me today in paying tribute to the late Miklós Vásárhelyi, a Hungarian of great courage and integrity who played a critically important role before and during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, and again in the 1970s and 1980s, in the struggle to transform Hungary from a one-party communist state into a multi-party democracy.

On October 14, Mr. Speaker, members of Miklós Vásárhelyi's family, friends, and admirers will gather in the city that was called Fiume, Hungary, when he was born there on October 9, 1917, and which today is Rijeka, Croatia. They will place a plaque honoring him on the wall of the very house where Mr. Vásárhelyi was born.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize his significant contributions to the cause of freedom and democracy. After university studies in Rome and Debrecen (Hungary), he became involved in anti-Fascist political activities. As a result, he spent two years in a forced labor battalion during World War II, and he joined the anti-Nazi resistance.

From 1953 to 1955, Mr. Vásárhelyi served as press secretary to Hungary's reform-minded Prime Minister, Imre Nagy. In that capacity, he successfully fought for more freedom of the press from central control. During the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, he again assumed a key role in the Imre Nagy government that was established after the uprising broke out. He was one of three high-ranking officials who convinced Prime Minister Nagy to open a dialogue with the freedom fighters.

When the Soviet Union crushed the 1956 Revolution, Mr. Vásárhelyi was one of the senior government officials who with Nagy accepted an offer of asylum at the Yugoslav embassy. They left the embassy under a guarantee of safety by the Hungarian government, but he and the others were immediately seized by Soviet troops and taken to Romania. In a secret trial he was given a five-year prison term, and he remained in prison until an amnesty in 1960.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Miklós Vásárhelyi continued the struggle against repression. Combining courage and personal charm, and maintaining a unique sense of optimism about the future, he was a leader of the democratic opposition that brought immense changes in 1989.

In the late 1980s, Mr. Vásárhelyi was the founder of the Hungarian Open Society Foundation. He was one of the leaders who laid the groundwork for a vibrant civic society in his country.

He not only worked through the Open Society Foundation in Hungary, but he became one of the leading figures in the democratic opposition that began to emerge in the late 1980s. In 1990, a grateful nation elected him to serve in Hungary's free parliament as a representative of the Association of Free Democrats.

I am pleased to add that Mr. Vásárhelyi was not only a genuine democrat but also a true

friend of the United States and of Hungarian-American cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the commemorative event that is taking place on October 14 at the house in Rijeka/Fiume where Miklós Vásárhelyi was born. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending his family, friends, and colleagues to celebrate the memory of this quiet, persistent, and effective man who kept faith with his ideals under the most difficult of circumstances.

A RESOLUTION THAT COMMEMORATES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NOSTRA AETATE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Jewish community in the United States and around the world celebrated Rosh Hashanah and the start of the Jewish New Year. With the new year comes a new sense of hope and optimism that anti-Semitism and religious hatred will finally be overcome. October also is the start of the Ramadan and month of fasting for Muslims around the globe.

These events remind us that we need to be accepting and tolerant of all people and their religions. We need also to celebrate our religious diversity. It is essential that we encourage cooperation and dialogue between members of all religions. Interreligious respect is vitally important in the fight against religious bigotry.

Today, I introduced a resolution that commemorates the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, a landmark declaration by the Catholic Church on religious tolerance and interfaith relations. My resolution also calls for the United States to continue to condemn and combat anti-Semitism and all forms of religious hatred and racial bigotry worldwide.

On October 28, 1965, after an overwhelming vote of 2221 to 88 by the bishops of the Catholic Church, Pope Paul VI issued Nostra Aetate, officially known as the Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions. Nostra Aetate, for the first time in 2,000 years, was an authoritative declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations and also on Catholic-interfaith relations.

Nostra Aetate, "In Our Time" in English, opened the doors for interfaith dialogue and respect between Catholics and Non-Christian religions. It originally began as a declaration on solely Catholic-Jewish relations but was expanded to include Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and other traditional religions. The declaration that resulted revolutionized attitudes within the Christian world towards Jews and members of the world's other religions. It was Pope John XXIII who initiated the Second Vatican Council, the event which gave birth to the "Nostra Aetate" declaration, a document that highlighted the Jewish roots of Christianity, in an attempt to repair centuries of hostilities between the two religions.

The 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate is a time for all people to become reacquainted with its historic importance and to work for even greater religious tolerance and dialogue. In Nostra Aetate the Catholic Church for the first time condemned anti-Semitism and other

forms of religious bigotry. The declaration says that “no foundation therefore remains for any theory or practice that leads to discrimination between man and man or people and people, so far as their human dignity and the rights flowing from it are concerned.” It also deplored “all hatreds, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism directed against Jews at any time or from any source.”

Over the past 40 years, there have been visible triumphs of the spirit and ideals of Nostra Aetate. Pope John Paul II took the message of Nostra Aetate to heart when he visited a synagogue in Rome in 1986, the first such visit by a Catholic Pope, and again when he visited Israel in 2000. But we need to ensure we carry this message of religious tolerance in our own hearts and in our own daily lives. We cannot sit idly by while anti-Semitic comments are made or other forms of religious bigotry and hate are spewed forth. We must continue to oppose these forms of hatred and support continued interreligious dialogue.

That is why I have introduced this resolution today. My resolution:

Commemorates the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate;

Celebrates the historic relationship between Jews, Catholics and other religions worldwide that has resulted;

Expresses the need for continued interreligious dialogue and cooperation between all people of all faiths; and

Condemns anti-Semitism and encourages the United States to be a leader in ending religious intolerance and discrimination worldwide.

Forty years after Nostra Aetate's adoption we have a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the progress that has occurred in religious cooperation and tolerance and remind ourselves of the work that remains to be done. We can, and we must, continue to strive to be a more tolerant people. Our common humanity deserves and demands nothing less.

THE EROSION OF AMERICAN DENTAL HEALTH STANDARDS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, when this House passed CAFTA, I objected to provisions that overturn the state licensing standards of doctors and dentists.

I was told that my fears—and those of the American Dental Association—were unfounded.

This, in spite of the fact CAFTA contains clauses that allow foreign dentists to challenge U.S. licensing standards in international tribunals.

Then according to the September 16 San Antonio Express, we had the CDC “working feverishly” to allow Mexican dentists to practice in Texas without a Texas Dental license, as part of Hurricane relief efforts. That is so easy to do under NAFTA.

Everyone realizes disaster relief is a unique situation. We must also realize that a precedent is now set—the U.S. Government stating that Mexican health care providers be allowed to circumvent our state licensing standards.

We can fully expect this precedent to be cited in future cases by those CAFTA tribunals.

Now we also have U.S. citizens without dental licenses, without even dental degrees, being allowed to circumvent the state licensing process in Alaska.

The Federal government has decided to overrule the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners, and to instead create a new federal license—a Dental Health Aide license.

According to the September 10 Anchorage Daily News, the Alaska Attorney General has ruled that these new federal regulations preempt state health licensing laws.

This allows dental health aides to practice in Native Health Clinics with licenses granted by the federal Community Health Aide Certification Board instead of the State of Alaska.

We again recognize a unique situation of remote Native villages.

However, as a licensed Dental Surgeon, I can testify to my colleagues that many of the procedures performed by dentists are surgical procedures, which should be performed only by someone who has graduated from an accredited dental school and is licensed to do so by their state.

There is a real need for dental health aides in remote locations for disease prevention and detection services, and coordinating necessary surgical care with a licensed dentist when needed.

The ADA and the Alaska Board of Dental Examiners have supported an expanded role for dental health aides in this limited and properly coordinated capacity.

But once again the Federal government has chosen to disagree and set a new precedent that undermines our historic dental licensing standards.

Mr. Speaker, dental health care quality is now on a very slippery slope as a result of these federal actions.

We need look no further than our southern border to see where this downhill slide will lead if we continue.

In the Mexican border towns, dental care costs less than half of what we pay here in the United States.

But according to travel industry warnings, 60% of those performing dental services are not properly licensed or trained, even by Mexican standards.

Accessing quality care under these eroded licensing conditions is simply a matter of luck of the draw.

In spite of the need to improve the overall American health care system, there is one thing we can all be proud of—we have the highest quality health care in the world.

And here is an awesome fact to consider as to the origins of these unparalleled quality standards.

The Federal government didn't have one darn thing to do with them.

They came entirely from the minds and hearts of physicians and dentists, who wanted to improve the quality of health care delivery and their professions.

They did so in the most appropriate way—through the states.

The licenses to practice medicine and dentistry throughout our Nation's history have been granted virtually exclusively by the States, not the Federal government.

Now the Federal government, which has convoluted and corrupted public health policy in countless instances, wants to slither into licensing—then share the spoils in trade agreements and international tribunals.

No one can doubt that there will be continuing harmonization of standards across many industries with our international trading partners.

But this body needs to resolve that at least in health care, the United States will lead that process, rather than follow.

We should export our standards—the highest, the toughest, the noblest in the world—rather than import incompetence, charlatanism, infection, and death.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need unqualified dental health aides cutting into people in Alaska.

We don't need to accept Mexican and Guatemalan dental licenses in Texas or Georgia, licenses highly likely to have been issued from the nearest false document mill spawned by illegal immigration.

Ironically, this body doesn't really need to do anything, other than keep the bureaucrats of the Federal government and the New World Order out of the way of our 50 sovereign States.

And it's past time we started doing just that.